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THE BIGFOOT DEBATE A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE NORTH AMERICAN SASQUATCH



Members of the panel who addressed the question: "What would happen if definite evidence is found?" during the Society's Sasquatch symposium held at Washington State University in June, 1989. From left to right, J. Richard Greenwell, Donald E. Tyler, Mark A. Sauter, Vladimir Markotic (Chairman), John Green, and Leroy Kinnie. (Michael C. Rugg.)

*On June 24-25, 1989, the Society held a two-day symposium titled "Sasquatch Evidence: Scientific and Social Implications." The symposium, only the second such meeting on the topic--the first was a 1978 conference sponsored by The University of British Columbia--constituted the Society's Eighth Annual Membership Meeting, and was hosted by the Department of Anthropology at Washington State University (WSU), in Pullman, Washington. Grover S. Krantz, a WSU physical anthropologist and ISC Board member, co-organized and chaired the symposium, which included 16 speakers and concluded with a panel discussion (see *Newsletter*, Winter, 1989).*

*The Society had sponsored a similar symposium on Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, in 1987 (see *Newsletter*, Winter, 1987), the proceedings of*

*which were later published by the journal The Scottish Naturalist, and are now available to ISC members at the discounted price of £11.50 or US\$20, postage included, from the Scottish Natural History Library, Foremount House, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA10 2EZ, U.K. The Nessie symposium also ended with a panel discussion, the edited transcript of which was published in the Summer, 1990, issue of the *Newsletter*.*

After a careful evaluation, it was decided not to publish the proceedings of the Sasquatch symposium, partly because of the cost involved, and partly because of the mixed quality of the presentations. However, it was decided at least to provide members with an edited version of the panel discussion, as was also done in the case of the Nessie symposium. This edited version is appearing in this and

the next issue of the Newsletter.

As with the symposium in general, the panel discussion—which included audience participation—resulted in very divergent views being expressed concerning Sasquatch and the implications of its discovery, as well as the related role of science. As about 60 percent of those attending the symposium were not Society members, many of the opinions expressed below do not reflect mainstream thinking within the Society itself, but, rather, the positions of the various Bigfoot hunters, the groups, and their coalitions.

Because of space limitations, the Editor has omitted some extraneous material. In addition, some exchanges could not be fully transcribed because the participants spoke too softly, were too far from the microphone, or both. Some editing has also been done to improve clarity of expression, but not meaning. In most instances, those speaking are identified by name. However, numerous questions came from members of the audience whose names are not known.

The panel discussion was titled: "What Would Happen if Definite Evidence is Found?" Dr. Krantz proposed that "definite evidence" could be represented by blood or tissue samples, new fossil material conclusively demonstrating that *Gigantopithecus* was a biped, *Gigantopithecus* bones discovered in North America, the procurement of an actual Sasquatch body, the capture of a live specimen, or the establishment of an observation station where Sasquatch could viewed on demand. Panel members were asked to address any one or all of these "ifs" in their introductory statements.

The panel was organized by Dr. Krantz—although he did not participate in it—and was chaired by symposium co-organizer Vladimir Markotic, an archaeologist at the University of Calgary. The other panel members were John Green, from Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, considered the leading authority on the subject and the author of several Sasquatch books; J. Richard Greenwell, ISC Secretary in Tucson, Arizona, and co-organizer of the symposium; Leroy Kinnie, a Spokane criminal trial

lawyer who has been both a defense and prosecuting homicide attorney; Mark A. Sauter, an investigative reporter with the Seattle CBS-TV affiliate; and Donald E. Tyler, a physical anthropologist at the University of Idaho, in nearby Moscow. Mr. Greenwell was asked to make the first statement.

Greenwell: First of all, I want to take a minute, as Secretary of the Society, to emphasize a certain policy—or actually a non-policy—which was embodied in a statement put together by the Board of Directors some years ago: the Society takes no position at all on any cryptozoological evidence in any given area, whether it's Bigfoot or anything else, in terms of what sort of animals may or may not exist. And likewise, it takes no position on which particular individual claims by certain witnesses—or individual pieces of evidence—are valid or not valid.

The Society itself doesn't take a position. Members of the Society, including members of the Board of Directors, can, of course, take positions as individuals, but they are personal ones, and do not reflect any Society policy.

In years past—particularly, I think, in the Bigfoot area—there have been statements made to the effect that the Society thinks this or believes that. I just want to set the record straight here; that is, that the Society does not have a position on Bigfoot, and when I speak as Secretary, I don't have a position on Bigfoot. Sometimes, of course, I may make a comment in a personal capacity.

Now, the thing I have given a lot of thought to is: what would happen if a Bigfoot specimen were actually produced? What would you do? Whom would you call? Grover Krantz once suggested that he would take it to his lab and work on it for a few weeks, call in some other experts and do this and that.

Then, without any media attention, they would simply write a technical paper and send it off to Science or Nature, giving the results of their preliminary analysis of the first Bigfoot specimen. And, of course, the

editors would all go crazy and say: "This is all nonsense—what are you trying to do to us?" And Grover would calmly respond: "Well, it's right here in my lab. You can come and look at it if you want." But I don't think that's really what Grover would do. I think that was really more like relishing a thought—a mind game.

I think that, in terms of the scientific community—and not everybody may agree with this—if a Sasquatch specimen were obtained and identified as, well, whatever it turned out to be, I think that some years down the road, after a reasonable period, it would become a very much accepted thing. Many zoologists and anthropologists would study it—others wouldn't because they're interested in other things—and it would gradually fall into the mainstream of science, and after 10 or 15 years, we would sort of begin to forget—by "we" I mean we as a people or society—we would begin to forget this whole controversy. This sort of thing has happened before, and in 20 or 30 years, young people would be hard pressed to remember all this business.

I find that very interesting, how quickly science forgets history. One can go back into history to many such examples. In fact, even with evolution, you hear a lot about the big battles, but in actual fact, once Darwin was able to convince some key people about evolution, people like Huxley, the switchover in thinking in zoology, from creation to evolution, was pretty rapid. It took a few years, but it was pretty rapid, and it got accepted pretty quickly. Now evolution is sort of the dogma.

And that probably would happen, I think, with Sasquatch—or with dinosaurs or anything else. Not everyone may agree with that, but I think it's an interesting prediction I'm making. In fact, I'd predict that, afterwards, a lot of scientists would even say: "Well, we suspected, of course, there was something to this all along, but we had to be cautious," and so on.

Tyler: What's it going to take to get research scientists to look at the Sasquatch problem, and to take it seriously, and not keep dismissing it as non-

sense? What we've been hearing so far in this meeting is a lot of things about footprints, a lot of things about photographs, we've heard about twisted trees, we've heard about vocalizations, and although all this is a kind of evidence, it's not the kind of evidence that's going to convince research scientists. We've got lots of personal accounts of people seeing a Sasquatch.

Well, these all fit into the category of what I would call "testimonials." A testimonial is what one uses in religion to talk, for example, about how one came upon Christianity. Chiropractors use it all the time. UFO and ESP people use it. It's not science. Testimonials are not science. They're hearsay. On their own, they're not anything that we can verify as being accurate.

There has been some talk about hair, skin, blood, and fecal material. Now, if this turned out to be genuine, and people were able to talk about different proteins and different kinds of analyses that would be able to tell us at least if this was a hominoid of a certain type, then that might convince some of the experts, but it's not going to convince everyone, by any means. So, what it's going to take is a skeleton. Minimally, it's going to take a skeleton. We are going to need to have some bones. We have to have *the* animal. We have to have a piece of the animal. In particular, if we just have a skeleton, we have to have key parts of the skeleton that show it's a bipedal animal. Even with a skeleton, that would probably settle it, but it would probably take a long time.

Now, the best scenario would be that Joe Blow is driving down the road and hits one with his car and kills it--but the thing was going to die of old age anyway. It couldn't make it across the road, so it was killed. O.K., now we have a body. We've got tissue, we've got blood, we've got a skeleton, so we can bring in specialists from all these areas on our list, if we can get them to come--and at least at first I bet it would be harder than we think to get them to come. But we can get them to come and look at it, and once that's established, they can start writing their papers, and once their colleagues hear about it, then they'll start to say some-

thing. So, what we need is a fresh kill. A body.

The other scenario is a live specimen. Some people argue that we should capture a live specimen. To me, that would be the cruelest thing you could ever do, to bring in a Sasquatch that was captured and put it in a cage, because that animal is going to be poked, prodded, and tortured until it's dead. I can't imagine why anybody would want to do that to an animal.

What we would be trying to find out is what relationships Sasquatch would have in terms of human evolution. What it would show is that, in the past, there was a creature like us that had developed bipedalism but didn't develop a big brain like us. The Gigantopithecus argument. We know Gigantopithecus was large, but we need to know if it was a quadruped or a biped.

If, when we find more fossil remains, Gigantopithecus turns out to be a bipedal primate, then we can say, O.K., 500,000 years ago in China there was a primate known as Gigantopithecus which matches the eyewitness reports we have today, which would tend to support the Sasquatch argument. If it turns out that Gigantopithecus was a quadruped, it doesn't disprove Sasquatch, it would just tend to weaken the argument. So, that's what we can get from Gigantopithecus. Sasquatch is not the "missing link." It doesn't disprove evolution. All it would be, if we find it, is just another primate like ourselves that evolved along a different line.

The other thing that would come out of all this, is that there would certainly be a lot of red faces in the scientific community, because most people have said flatly that Sasquatch doesn't exist--without knowing anything about it. They won't even look at the evidence, and that's something that's come up here. What we've done at this convention is bring out some of these ideas, and some people have said that suchand-such shouldn't be up here, that he is full of bull. Well, that's what you have scientific conventions for. You should bring everybody up here who at least falls in the realm of what you're talking about. Now, I

don't mean people who are talking about Sasquatch being brought here by UFOs. We have the same problem in my field. We have to deal with creationists. It's just beyond the realm of science.

With that in mind, we want to get professional scientists to listen to us, and the way to get them to listen to us is by getting a body. And, if nothing else, we can hold conferences like this one to talk about the evidence that we do have. I heard some people complaining earlier that their interests weren't being discussed at this convention. Well, that's the way it is at every scientific convention. It's not unique to this field.

In my own field, we've got lots of personalities, people who guard data, who won't share data, people who won't be seen in the same room together. So, what we're talking about here with some of the Sasquatch hunters who won't talk to each other, who won't share data, and on and on and on--and all these stories that make the newspapers so happy--happens in all fields, but it's not under the scrutiny that we have here with something like the Sasquatch subject.

Right now, for example, I'm trying to put together a symposium on primate classification for a national meeting this Fall. I'm talking to different experts, and I've two national authorities on the subject of primate classification, but I can't have them both because they won't talk to each other and they won't come to the same conference. But you don't hear about that because we're talking about primate classification, something that, basically, only we care about. So, anyway, I'll stop. (Laughter.)

Sauter: We in the media are the gatekeepers of information. Why is it that anthropologists don't want to touch the Sasquatch issue? It's because they're afraid they're going to be embarrassed. They're afraid that the media will do stories on them that will embarrass them, and the university will get bad press. And they're not going to get tenure. That's a major factor.

But you have to deal with us, and the Sasquatch issue--unless a body is

found on I-90--will be impeded unless some decent information gets to the media. Now, of course, we do a lot of very dumb things. We do a lot of irresponsible things. But you can't blame us for writing a story about death threats going back and forth between Bigfoot hunters, because that's a story that relates to the whole picture of the relationship between the groups here, and it is a valid one.

In terms of evidence, I think there are two types of evidence I care about as a journalist. One is absolute evidence. Of course, when the body shows up, that's it. The major issue is closed. What's left is just working out the details. That's the way I think the media is going to look at it. If you find a body, you'd better know about the media, or you'd better have a friend who does, because you'll be *swarmed* by people with microwave trucks who'll try to put you on TV at 4 in the morning, Pacific Time, and are going to poke you, and gouge you, and ask questions about you, and make your life miserable.

It's already happened to Grover and lots of other folks, and it will be a hundred times worse if you're the person who finds the body. And you'd better make sure that you didn't find it by blowing its head off and not have a lawyer, because every other lawyer around--from the Sierra Club counsel to the county prosecutor who wants to be governor--is going to be looking at you if that's the case. That's absolute evidence. It's pretty quick and dirty.

The other evidence is supporting evidence: the eyewitnesses, the hair, the blood, the tissue. The better that evidence gets, the more scrutiny you're going to get from the media, and the more scrutiny you may get from the scientific community. Now, when you start talking about dermal ridges, the more of that evidence that comes out, and the more people in this room--whether they're skeptics or people from the different camps--start making critiques, the more you'd better be careful with your hoaxing, because your life is going to be miserable if the media catches you hoaxing.

Right now, the media doesn't care because the media doesn't know about

dermal ridges, by and large. The media doesn't know about the hair analyses. But if you start getting the networks or The New York Times or people like me taking a long-term interest, sooner or later, if you're hoaxing, we'll find out. And your name and your hoax, and me hiding in the woods with my telephoto camera having you putting footprints down, if you're doing that, is going to be all over the place.

So, let's hope that that's not happening, but as that's going to become more of a factor as things proceed, I think that good pictures, good tissue, good hair evidence, good dermal evidence can make a difference because it could create an attitude change in the scientific community. The Patterson pictures are not good pictures. They may be real, they may not be--I'm not an expert. I think they're gorgeous-looking. But they're not good simply because they weren't taken by someone who is accepted by the powers that be. If Mike Wallace and his crew had taken that film, there would be all kinds of anthropologists right now studying Bigfoot. Sad but true.

There is another problem I see with the evidence. I deal with people all the time who have terrible problems: "Get my brother out of jail. He's on death row. Prove he's innocent." "Do this." "Do that." We journalists have incredible demands placed on us. All journalists are lazy. Good journalists are even more lazy with your story because they have 500 other stories they're working on.

The evidence I see here is totally out of control. There's no standard of evidence here. You Bigfoot hunters need to get cops in here. You need to get journalists in here. You bring the hairs in and 50 people touch them, and you send them in for protein analysis. You get a positive for primate origin. It's absolute crap, because your fingers put protein on the hair. Certain types of bags ruin hairs. It's the same with footprints. You're tromping around not controlling the scene, not getting good shots. When you take a shot of a Bigfoot, you don't wait 6 months and then go back and take shots of the surrounding area and take measurements. You can't do that if you really

want to advance things.

I see some people who are great at getting out in the woods, and I see other people who are pretty good about evidence, but they don't seem to talk to each other. So you have some guy who did a great job, maybe got something good in the woods, and everyone's saying: "Well, how come you didn't take the picture right by the tree when it happened? Why didn't you do this? Why didn't you do that?" There's no standard. I think it should be in the cryptozoology journal. I tell people: "If you're going to send me evidence, its got to be in this kind of condition, or you're wasting my time." And I suggest to you people who work so hard that it's not going to be that tough to develop such standards that everybody can agree on, whether you think they're from UFOs or whether you don't even think they exist.

Markotic: I also would like to have a Sasquatch body, or perhaps that of another kind of unknown hominoid--we must not forget that Sasquatch is just one of several reported around the world. It's not so much that it would be a new kind of animal, although Sasquatch, for example, would represent an enormous biological discovery; I think there is another problem which is, to my mind, very important, and this is that we don't have the slightest idea of how the human lineage separated from the ape lineage, and how humans become human.

Well, what do we say about this in anthropology? Well, we don't say anything. We don't have any idea about this, and I think that Sasquatch, which is said to be anatomically closer to humans than are chimpanzees or gorillas, and being bipedal like humans, could show us how this happened. So, I think it is important from this point of view, not just from the point of view of discovering a new species. Also, I would like to say that, in addition to Sasquatch, which is large, there are reports of a large hominoid in China, a regular-sized being in the Caucasus, there are reports from the Himalayas, and Africa is full of stories of short, hairy people.

And this should not be too surprising. We know that when the mammals

first appeared, it wasn't a case of just one reptile saying: "Well, I'm going to become a mammal--let's go!" There were many evolutionary attempts that simply failed, and there was another attempt, and another attempt, and so on. So, I'm not at all surprised that Sasquatch is not unique, and that there are other ones which we should also keep in mind.

Green: In looking at the various forms of evidence Grover suggested we review, in my experience blood or tissue samples would not be accepted as evidence at all. If *Gigantopithecus* bones were found showing it was a biped, I don't think that would make any difference. Many people assume that to be the case right now. Somebody brings in a fresh body: at that stage, what would happen is that all the scientists would say: "Boy, we knew that was there all along," and they'd come in and take over. I'm not even going to speculate what would happen after that. It would be all right with me. Its existence would have been proven, so we would just have to let them elbow in and see who would come out on top.

Live specimen captured: Well, we always had a plan for that one. We've been to a lot of scientists, a bunch of us over the years--it probably runs into the hundreds of people we've been put down by. We're grateful for that, and we would like to invite all of those to be among the first to view the specimen. So the idea was we'd rent a great big room on the 10th floor, and we'd gather all these people together, and we'd open the door, and push the Sasquatch inside and close the door! (Laughter.) However, I think the end would be the same, that people like myself would be immediately right out of it, and I personally would be quite content that it should be that way.

An observation post is established, allowing viewing and filming on demand: I will take the position that that's absolutely impossible, so there's no point in discussing it. In my opinion, that simply isn't going to happen, either before they are proven to exist or afterwards. I don't think they live that way, and I don't think that will ever happen. I'd like to remind you that Jane Goodall was never able to

observe chimpanzees until she baited them to come into her camp.

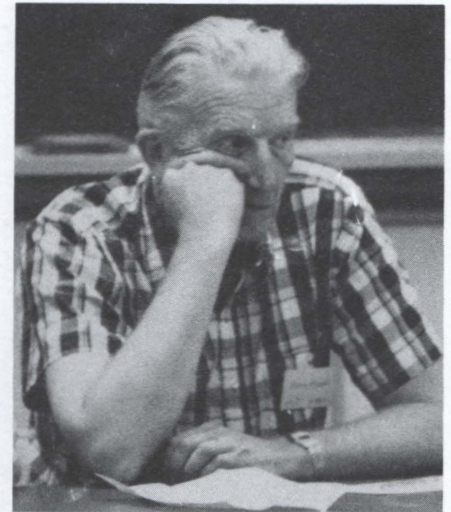
We have an animal that doesn't particularly want you hanging around, and is capable of leaving you behind, so you're not going to observe it very much. One other point I'd like to make, in the light of what I had to say yesterday, is that they seated me at this panel next to a lawyer. (Laughter.) [Mr. Green's presentation the previous day was titled: "The Case for a Legal Inquiry into Sasquatch Evidence," an edited version of which was published in *Cryptozoology*, Vol. 9--Editor.]

Kinnie: In trying to analyze the questions presented, I have to go back and rely on my own experience, which has no connection at all with zoology, or hunting for Sasquatch, or anything like that. Now, all of this evidence which we're talking about, the trace evidence--blood, tissue, hair, fiber--the things we look for at a homicide scene, I don't know what a court could do with that kind of evidence if it came from a Sasquatch.

What the prosecutor and the police would do is send it all down to the crime lab, and the crime lab--they have criminologists in there, and serology experts, and other experts--they have to have something to compare it to. If it's an unknown substance, that's exactly what their report will say. So it's not going to be definitive. It's not going to prove anything one way or another.

I think what it's going to take is a body, dead or alive. It's going to take a body. And then the proper scientists can study it, because if you get into a court of law, the judge is going to look to the scientists. The judge is not going to stick his neck out and say that Sasquatch exists, and this is a Sasquatch. He's just not going to do that without a lot of scientific testimony from recognized scientists to back him up. And then he would make the august pronouncement: "Yes, this is a Sasquatch." And as an aside, he'd probably add: "I knew they existed all along."

I've been asked to comment on what would happen if there were a body, and, if it were shot by a hunter, would

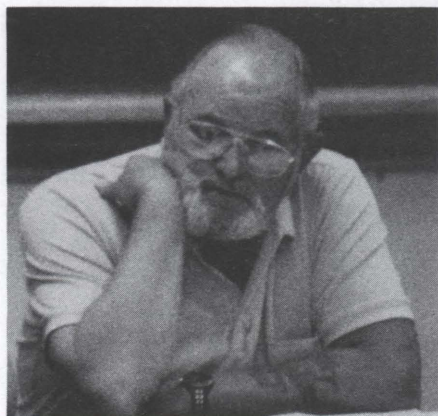


John Green

that be classed at all as a homicide? Again, the courts would go to the scientists to determine whether this thing was an animal, a human, or something in between. The judge would not make that decision. The medical examiner--also sometimes known as the coroner--would not make that decision. A coroner's inquest could not make that decision without an awful lot of scientific testimony, and you always end up in the soup when you try to go to the courts with something like this.

As to whether it would be considered murder or not, if you get one of these critters in a small county in a remote area, and if you have an eager prosecutor, he'll probably call it murder. In which event, you've got the trial of the century. Then you can talk about media--they'd be there! They'd be there to see what this crazy prosecutor did, number one, and what the crazy judge is going to do, number two. But it's all going to depend on the scientists when you come right down to it. There's no way in the world that the judge, or a jury--an inquest jury or a regular trial jury--would somehow on their own draw up or form an intermediate class of critter and call it Sasquatch. It's either got to be an animal or a human. As far as the law looks at things right now, there isn't anything in between.

Now, if and when a Sasquatch is captured or its existence is established by some other means, to where it's fully accepted, you're going to have



Leroy Kinzie

all kinds of legislation against shooting anyone or any thing that walks upright. You see, some of these hunters that get into the back country during elk season, and other seasons, and sometimes out of season, can be mistaken for a Bigfoot. So there'll be all kinds of legislation, to protect people and to protect the animal.

Markotic: Well, we've given some of our own opinions, so now we can go to the audience. We will be very glad to answer any questions.

Unidentified Man: If you did shoot one, could the state government take it away from you? If you had the body, and the police found out, could the state government legally confiscate it?

Kinnie: They might under a health and safety law, or some other kind of law. They cannot take away your title to it, but they can take away your right to exploit it.

Unidentified Man: If somebody shoots a Sasquatch, and brings it out of the woods, who do you go to first?

Kinnie: I think I'd probably get hold of the media, so I'd have a lot of protection and a lot of back-up. With photographs and the whole thing.

Sauter: I think so much of that depends on what your objective is. Personally, I would get in touch with media I trusted. I would certainly get in touch with some scientists as well. I would talk to a lawyer. I think I would handle this as discreetly as I could until I had a plan, because once you get

media who you don't know on the scene, you also get police you don't know on the scene, and then you get scientists you don't know on the scene, and you get somebody else who's going to kill you to take the creature away. Things can get out of control.

If I were out in the woods looking for this all the time, I would be doing some deep thinking and deep networking, because you don't take the first step without thinking of the last. I would definitely have a plan.

Kinnie: When you get hold of the media, Bigfoot would still be in the woods. You wouldn't cart him out and show him off to the local newspaper. That isn't what I mean.

Green: You'd better cart *something* out.

Kinnie: You'd better hold him there and get hold of someone in the media.

Sauter: Or take us in. If you took me in, and I videotaped the thing, people would take you seriously. If you came out with pieces, as John was alluding to, people would take you seriously too. But then you'd start to lose control, because, legally, if you have a piece of it, there are certain things they can do to you that they can't do to me. Such as taking it away. They can't take my videotape away, unless they want to have all the lawyers in Seattle on them.

Unidentified Woman: I have worked in the zoology department here at WSU for many years, and I know that if I am going to set a trap for an animal that is undeniably classified as a wild animal by state law, I am required to have a collecting permit. You're out to collect something here, whether you're qualifying it as an animal or as a human, I think you can run into problems. I'm talking about a permit issued by the state that allows you to collect a given number of specimens of various species, whether mice, or ground squirrels, or bears, or whatever any scientist or person wants to collect.

Kinnie: You'd have a hard time applying for a permit to go out and get a Sasquatch.

Unidentified Woman: Right, but you're talking about collecting a specimen that you don't even know is a wild animal or a human. It seems to me that you are talking about collecting a scientific specimen, and if you believe that, and you are going to go out to attempt to collect this specimen, you should cover your ass by getting a permit, or at least attempting to get one.

Unidentified Man: I think it would be interesting to find out what they'd say if you did apply for one. Grover, how about applying for one to see what they say? (Laughter.)

Markotic: It seems to me that perhaps the best thing to do is to go to a lawyer first, because it's a legal matter.

Unidentified Man: We're talking about experts involved in this. How about state and federal wildlife experts?

Greenwell: Well, if one's shot, or even caught alive, the federal government would probably step in, specifically the Fish and Wildlife Service. It's part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Within that agency is a unit called the Division of Endangered Species, and they are charged with monitoring the status of the nation's animals and plants under the Endangered Species Act. They list animals and plants of all kinds which they consider threatened or endangered. They also control the U.S. entry of listed foreign species, and they deal with foreign governments on these problems.

I think that officials in the Division of Endangered Species, whom I've spoken to, would immediately look into the matter, and I imagine that, if their preliminary evaluation were that Sasquatch was indeed an animal, then it would fall under their responsibility. I think that what they would probably do would be to pursue an immediate emergency listing of Sasquatch as an endangered species, even if they had no real data to support the notion that it was, in fact, endangered. It would just be sort of a special emergency listing while they undertook a more comprehensive evaluation.

But once it was listed, and published, they would then have full federal

authority in the matter--overruling states and anyone else--to go in, and take in any experts, and even temporarily close down any timber operations, mines, anything they wanted, whatever they wanted. It's all by act of Congress. What would happen then, well, it would be pretty rough.

Krantz: For what it's worth, I spoke to the top legal officer of the Washington state game department a couple of years ago, asking him what would the state's interest be if I or somebody shot a Sasquatch, and his answer was: "No interest whatsoever." They would wait until something settled out with the scientists, and then they would think about it.

Terry Cullen: Richard, they would not do that.

Greenwell: Not even an emergency listing?

Cullen: Absolutely not. There are a number of animals that are officially considered extinct. If you find one, you can blow its brains out and make a hat out of it. But if you put a bluejay feather in your cap--one that you happened to find as you were walking along--they would invoke the Migratory Bird Act and give you 15 years. That's no kidding. If there's one thing that I'm up on, it's the CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species] regulations, because that's what I work with.

The government agency for endan-



Richard Greenwell

gered species has been almost single-handedly responsible for damn near the extinction of several animals because of their legislation, and the people involved in it, but that's another topic.

Greenwell: But bear in mind the tremendous media and public--

Cullen: --It doesn't matter. If it's listed as extinct, or is not even listed as existing, they can't do anything with it, and there is no provision for a grandfather clause. If Grover goes out and shoots a Sasquatch tomorrow, and it's determined by--I really hate making this separation because as far as I'm concerned they're animals, no matter what they are, and that's the end of that--but if somebody determines that it's the animal category that satisfies them more than the human category, then no, CITES would not get involved in that.

It wouldn't change until Grover got finished with everything he was going to do with it, and enough people had been called in, but that particular animal as a type specimen--there's nothing they can do with it, and nothing they can do about it. Not until the legislation has been passed. I'm not saying it would not be legally protected later on, and subsequent specimens might then not be available. I'm just saying that that first type specimen, unless that is a listed animal--forget it. There's nothing they can do or would do.

Danny Perez: This is a question specifically directed to Donald Tyler. If these things exist, and they collect the first one, every institution in the world is going to want to have a Sasquatch to examine. Where do we stop? Were do we say: "Look, okay, we've got a thousand--"

Tyler: --Okay, I get your question. The only example I can think of right off is Lucy, the most complete fossil skeleton of the earliest bipedal human ancestor. One skeleton. Every major university would like to have that skeleton, but what you do is you make casts, which you can make available to others, but the others are just not going to get the original. Whatever university or museum gets the original, they are the ones who are going to

keep it, and others have to go there to look at it. It doesn't matter what the outcry is.

Unidentified Man: What about the black market?

Tyler: Well, what can I say? So far, the Sasquatch seems to have been quite successful at eluding hunters.

Sauter: Maybe someone's got one right now. Maybe somebody's got 13 bald eagle feathers and a Sasquatch that he's afraid will be confiscated.

Rene Dahinden: You know, for the last 30 years, I've been hearing the words "science" and "scientific" being thrown around, just like confetti. I see it here. I once wrote Richard Greenwell a letter asking: "What the hell is science? What the hell is a scientist?" Will you define it for me please?

Greenwell: You never wrote a letter asking me that.

Dahinden: Well, anyway... (Laughter.) I'm puzzled. I hear the word "science" and "unscientific." The biggest pile of garbage is peddled under that word. What the hell does it mean? The second part of this question is: Green and others here say: "Let's convince the scientists that the Sasquatch exists." I thought we were looking for Sasquatch, not scientists! You know what I'm saying? The thing is out in the bush, not in the halls of science. Why should I convince that particular scientist that the Sasquatch exists?

I thought we were going to find one out there and the problem is solved. You know what I'm saying to you? Many people concentrate their efforts in trying to convince the scientific community with so-called evidence that the creature exists. I don't know for what purpose, when in fact the creature, if it exists, is out in the bush. If we put our whole effort in *looking* for it, instead of spending all our effort arguing and writing fancy papers, maybe we would resolve the problem. I don't understand our preoccupation with convincing the scientific community.

Greenwell: Well, I think you've answered your own question. □

IRANIAN GECKO CUT DOWN TO SIZE

A previous newsletter (Spring, 1988) contained a report of the discovery in Iran of what was thought to be the world's second largest gecko--second, that is, to the *kawekawean* of New Zealand described by ISC members Aaron M. Bauer and Anthony P. Russell in 1986 (see *Newsletter*, Spring, 1988, and Winter, 1990).

As reported in the *Newsletter*, the new Iranian gecko, named *Eublepharis ensafi* by French herpetologists M. Baloutch and Michel Thireau in 1986, has a total length of 295 mm (11.5 in)--compared to the total length of 622 mm (2 feet) of the New Zealand gecko. It was uncovered by an exploding shell during an intense battle in the Iran-Iraq War, and it was named after the Iranian corporal who found it and who was later killed in action.

Aaron Bauer, however, questioned the new species status of the specimen, and proposed that it might merely represent a large example of the known species *Eublepharis angramainyu*. "Future work," the *Newsletter* stated, "will either confirm or deny the large Iranian gecko its status as a new species."

The uncertainty has now been resolved. In a paper in the *Journal of Herpetology*, L.L. Grismer has determined that the new "giant" gecko is, as Dr. Bauer suspected, the known species *E. angramainyu*, and, furthermore, that it is only about 10% larger

in snout-vent length (SVL) than the previously largest specimen of that species (1989, *Eublepharis ensafi* Baloutch and Thireau, 1986: A Junior Synonym of *E. angramainyu* Anderson and Leviton, 1966, Vol. 23[1]:94-95).

What happened? In their original description, Baloutch and Thireau gave the correct measurements of 170 mm (6.63 in) SVL and 125 mm (4.87 in) for the tail (1986, *Une Espece Nouvelle de Gecko Eublepharis ensafi* [Sauria, Gekkonidae, Eublepharinae] du Khouzistan [Sud Ouest de l'Iran], *Bulletin Mensuel de la Societe Linneenne de Lyon*, Vol. 55[8]:281-88). This represents a total length of 295 mm (11.5 in). However, in the paper's introduction, the total length is erroneously given as 395 mm (15.4 in). This may have resulted from a simple addition or typing error.

However, this incorrect length--in fact, 400 mm (15.6 in)--was subsequently used again by one of the authors (M. Thireau, 1987, *Une Guerre, une Bombe et le Plus Grand Gecko du Monde*, *L'Univers du Vivant*, Vol. 18:95-97), and repeated by other authors who apparently did not consult the original published description for accuracy (Michel Raynal, 1988, *The Larger-Than-Life Lizard*, *BBC Wildlife*, Vol. 6[1]:12; Michel Raynal and Michel Dethier, 1990, *Lezards Geants des Maoris et Oiseau Enigmatique des Marquisiens: La Verite Derriere la Legende*, *Bulletin Mensuel de la Societe Linneenne de Lyon*, Vol. 59[3]:85-

91). Fortunately, the *Newsletter* used the correct figure of 295 mm (11.5 in), so the right information was disseminated to ISC members.

More recently, writing in the *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* (1991, *The Maximum Size of Giant Geckos: A Cautionary Tale*, Vol. 26[2]:25-26), Bauer and Russell point out that the Iranian gecko "does not even come close to being the second largest gecko," and they list numerous other species with a longer SVL than 170 mm (6.63 in). They conclude that the Iranian gecko not only represents a known species, but its SVL places it as only the ninth largest (and seventh largest extant) gecko species.

Drs. Bauer and Russell end their paper with a sobering comment: "The case of *Eublepharis ensafi* is unique in that the authors themselves misstated the size of the holotype, and then introduced this error into the popular literature. It illustrates how, in only four years, the size of this gecko species has become established at a full 36% above its actual value. Similar problems involving miscitation of primary authors by secondary are widespread and help to disseminate misinformation in the herpetological community. The case in point should serve as warning to herpetologists to be scrupulously accurate in their attention to detail." And the same goes, of course, for cryptozoologists! □

FUNDRAISING DRIVE

The previous newsletter outlined plans for the Society's 10th Anniversary Fundraising Drive. (We thought we if capitalize it, we may get good results!)

This is a reminder to all members to help if they can by:

- * recruiting another member from their circle of friends or associates (Society leaflets are available from the Secretariat);
- * requesting their academic library or major city library to initiate a subscription to ISC publications, and also purchase back issues (special library subscription forms are available from the Secretariat);
- * ordering both newsletter and journal back issues they do not have, for their own collections (see back order listings at the rear of Vol. 9, 1990, of the journal).

- * donating an extra amount to the Society, however small it may be.

This drive will continue through 1992. We thank all members for their help. □

"The care of human life and happiness ...is the first and only legitimate object of good government."

Thomas Jefferson
Drafter of the U.S. Declaration of Independence

EDITORIAL TABLOID WRITERS SLEEPING WELL

They're at it again. The weekly supermarket tabloid papers, that is. I have received a number of calls and letters in recent months inquiring about the supposed sensational crypto-zoological discoveries reported by such tabloids. I thought I had pretty much laid the matter to rest a few years ago in the article "The Tabloids that Time Forgot" (*Newsletter*, Summer, 1987), but such tabloid stories have now reached a new and unprecedented level of boldness, and it seems time to once again comment on the matter, particularly for the benefit of our post-1987 members.

First, let us quickly review what was covered in the 1987 *Newsletter* article. In its August 27, 1985, edition, *The Sun* ran the headline: "Dinosaur Captured in Africa." Indeed, writer Barbara Gilbert detailed how a Mokele-Mbembe had been caught and placed in a Zaire reserve, and a Dr. Frederick Manning had called it "the most thrilling discovery of the century." I called editor Rita Tucker, who assured me of the report's veracity, but unfortunately all the corresponding notes and details were packed in cardboard boxes because of the upcoming move of *The Sun's* editorial offices. She promised to call me as soon as the boxes were unpacked. I'm still waiting.

The *Weekly World News*, not to be outdone, published an article by Doug Gardner in its April 27, 1987, edition called "Living Dinosaurs!" As I wrote at the time, the discoverers reportedly "encountered and filmed, not a mere dinosaur, but an entire Mesozoic menagerie" in South America's Amazon Basin. Many species of dinosaur were observed and filmed, and a Dr. Konrad Gruber stated that "when our full report is made public, the scientific world will stand in awe of this fantastic discovery...the full story will be made public only at the proper time, not a minute before." I'm still waiting.

As I wrote in 1987, there are a number of tell-tale signs which unmask such tabloid stories as fabrications. First, although the names of principals

are given--usually they are "Dr." this and "Professor" that--no home city is ever indicated, and no institutional affiliation is ever provided. Thus, there is no way an interested party can conduct any further inquiries. In addition, it is always the case that *no other national or international body has any knowledge whatsoever of the supposed event, despite its supposed enormous importance.* The "exclusive" story is invariably published only by--and known only to--the tabloid involved.

The idea that such a monumental scientific discovery as usually reported would become known only to a tabloid, and be missed by official agencies--and the major press-wire and news services--is too ridiculous to even discuss. The final touch is that, almost always, the tabloid itself, despite the enormity of the supposed discovery, forgets the story as soon as it is milked and moves on to other sensations.

The new chapter in this seemingly endless saga began in the January 21, 1991, edition of the *Weekly World News*, with a headline which read: "Living Dinosaurs Found in Borneo!" In her article, "Correspondent" Katherine Ann Ross *proceeded to repeat the exact same text, word for word, of the 1987 South American article!* Except that "Amazon" was replaced by "Borneo," and a few other words were changed. Even the same--but reversed--depiction of an elasmosaur was included. And there again was the same enigmatic Dr. Gruber, stating once

more that "when our full report is made public, the scientific world will stand in awe of this fantastic discovery."

Had I entered a parallel universe, one in which the *same* scientific team had discovered dinosaurs in a *different* part of the world 4 years later? Or had the *Weekly World News* itself simply fallen for the repeated fabrication, with a lazy writer simply re-running the 1987 story without the editors realizing it? I don't accept either of these two possibilities. I think we can safely assume that the *Weekly World News* deliberately and purposefully reprinted an almost identical story 4 years later, confident that it would not be noticed--and not caring if it was.

On March 26, 1991, *The Sun*, which had reported on the capture of Mokele-Mbembe in 1985, ran a headline which read: "Dinosaur Egg is Hatching!" The article by Arthur Dale reported that "excited scientists were rushing to a remote region of South America where tribal villagers were worshipping a huge living egg they say was laid by a monstrous dinosaur." New Zealand paleontologist Thomas Leeman, who had detected a heartbeat inside the egg, stated: "This is by far the most significant discovery in the history of natural science." The article included a photo of tribesmen dancing around the 10-foot long egg in a Venezuelan village. Efforts were being made to ensure that the egg would hatch so the discovery could be shared with the world. I'm still waiting.

On June 4, 1991, *The Sun* again reported the discovery of South Ameri-

Swiss explorers photograph incredible creatures in remote Indonesian jungle

LIVING DINOSAURS FOUND IN BORNEO!



By KATHERINE ANN ROSS
Correspondent

Dinosaurs that roamed the Earth millions of years ago are still living today -- in the darkest reaches of Borneo!

A scientific expedition that trekked into the country's forbidding jungle region has returned to civilization with incredible films and photographs of the monsters that thrived on Earth dur-

very similar to dinosaurs had been seen in the particular area we visited," he said.

"Not much credence was given to the reports until someone came out with a living specimen."

"When our group reached the area where the specimen was found, we soon came across others and identified them as young dinosaurs of the Mesozoic era."

**"We saw with
our own
eyes the**

A 1991 tabloid article describing the supposed discovery of living dinosaurs in Borneo. The entire text is practically identical to that of a 1987 article claiming the same discovery in the Amazon. See *Newsletter*, Summer, 1987.

can dinosaurs, this time by Australian explorer Malcolm Cornwall III. The article, "Dinosaur Shocker!" by William Rock, stated that Cornwall and his native helpers, besides observing placid sauropods, had been charged by a Tyrannosaurus in the Amazon Basin, but--unfortunately--they escaped. Cornwall reportedly wanted to get the backing of a major museum for a second expedition, so, of course, he contacted The Sun for this very purpose. Cornwall was to return to the Amazon shortly, and very soon "the world will catch a glimpse of how things looked in prehistoric times." I'm still waiting.

The Weekly World News, shifting topics a bit, reported "Bigfoot Captured" in its April 23, 1991, edition. The article by Dick Donovan included exclusive photos of the creature, provided by zoologist Dr. Leonard Owens. The Bigfoot was being held and studied by scientists at a "research facility" near Helena, Montana. Dr. Owens refused to give the exact location of the facility, to avoid a "media circus." The Bigfoot was reportedly captured on March 27 with a tranquilizer gun.

Dr. Owens also stated that his full report, with film footage, would be released by early fall, 1991. Now, I know what you're all expecting. You're all expecting my usual, cynical "I'm still waiting" comment. Well, I can't use it this time because, in an unprecedented move, Weekly World News continued to report on the matter.

Yes, in a June 4 article titled "Captured Bigfoot Can Talk!"--this one by "Special Correspondent" Rick Tracy--it revealed that scientists had found that the 560lb (253kg) beast was capable of speech. Such had been determined by anthropology professor Eric Belvit (who, despite his many accomplishments, I'm sure, isn't listed in the National Faculty Directory). The 7-foot (2.1m)-tall Bigfoot is thought to be more intelligent than all known monkeys, apes, and tabloid writers, "and functions at the level of a 5-year-old child," according to Dr. Owens.

The story ended in the October 1 edition, with an article titled "Bigfoot

Escapes, Kills 2!" In this final article, "Special to The News" by Mark Lodge, it was reported that the Bigfoot had escaped after being flown to Austria. In its exclusive story, the Weekly World News first stated that the capture in March in Montana had "made headlines"; the only headline I ever saw was in the Weekly Word News itself. It also stated it "and other media reported at the time" how the beast had performed on intelligence tests. These were feeble attempts by the Weekly World News to lend credibility to its fabrications.

The story goes that, when the plane landed in Vienna, the Bigfoot, not sufficiently sedated, killed two guards and escaped into the woods. Austrian authorities were conducting a "massive search," but, as the beast had been reported moving south, "the chances of recapturing the Bigfoot grow slimmer by the day." Dr. Owens concluded: "This is a tragedy beyond measure."

The real tragedy, of course, is that, although few if any ISC members will give the slightest credence to these repetitive tabloid claims, there is a certain, perhaps less educated segment of the population who will take them more seriously. Furthermore, such stories probably drive away zoologists who might otherwise have a genuine interest in cryptozoology, and they are also seized upon by professional debunkers as a demonstration that cryptozoological reports are nonsense.

There is no doubt whatsoever that such stories are complete fabrications, from beginning to end. The persons and publications fabricating such stories for greed and profit are doing a serious disservice to society. With things the way they are, one would think that everybody, especially those in the media, would feel some sense of responsibility, and to want to help improve the nation's educational level--or at least not weaken it by spreading false knowledge.

The fact that such publications are protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution--which states that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press"--makes the situation even more tragic. Journalism is an honor-

able profession, and a free press is the principal protector of a true democratic society. Thus, what these tabloids do represents an affront not only to society in general but to the institution of the press in particular, not to mention the Constitution.

And it may get worse. Increasingly, supermarket tabloids are having to fork over large amounts of money to celebrities who have sued over the publication of falsehoods--and won. Actress-singer Doris Day recently filed a \$25 million libel lawsuit against The Globe for writing that she had turned into a street "bag lady." "People need to know that tabloids like The Globe are really cheating and deceiving the public," Day stated. "Many people, unfortunately, believe the lies these people print. I want to add my voice to those others who are suing the tabloids to reinforce the message that reckless, irresponsible journalism does a disservice to everyone."

Thus, as tabloids find it increasingly expensive to fabricate stories about celebrities, they will probably increase fabrications in other areas, including cryptozoology. And who is to sue them for these lies? The nonexistent dinosaurs? Our Society, which can barely afford to cover its own expenses, much less finance expensive lawsuits?

With their First Amendment protection of "free speech," the tabloid writers and editors will probably continue to fabricate, to miseducate, and, presumably, to sleep well at night. But there is one thing we as scholars can do on our part. The people writing and editing these fabricated stories are really not newsmen or newswomen. The stories are really not news. And the publications are really not newspapers. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason to reference such garbage at all in our articles, in our books, and in our bibliographies. Let such stories, conceived in greed, disappear into the garbage-bin of history.

Maybe one day there will be little evidence that they ever existed.

J. Richard Greenwell
Editor

ANDRE CAPART, 1914-1991

We regret to announce the death on April 24, 1991, of ISC Honorary Member Andre Capart, Belgium's most distinguished oceanographer. ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans had had a longstanding professional and personal relationship with Professor Capart. Thus, Dr. Heuvelmans kindly agreed to write the following obituary for the Newsletter.

Andre Capart was elected an Honorary Member of our Society at its founding in 1982 due to his continuous support of cryptozoological research over many years. For instance, when I reported to him, from New Jersey, the survival in Asia of a Neanderthal form--after a careful study of a frozen specimen smuggled into the U.S. from Viet Nam--it was he, then director of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium, who was instrumental in having my article rapidly published in the Bulletin of that institution, to which I also happened to be still attached.

His enthusiastic support was based on both thorough scientific insight and great courage before a generally incredulous and even--as it soon became clear--hostile establishment. The Zoological Record, published by the Zoological Society of London, failed to record my article, although it was written by one of its own scientific Fellows. And a group of American zoologists, irritated but grossly misinformed, even requested of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the suppression of the name Homo neanderthalensis pongoides--the name I had erected for the specimen--"on the grounds that the holotype is an artificial fabrication of rubber and hair." This request to the Commission was unacceptable since, as pointed out by primatologist John Napier, it was based "on opinion," an opinion actually inspired by unfounded rumors.

Andre Capart was the son of the prominent Belgian egyptologist Jean Capart, director of the Royal Museums of the Fiftieth Jubilee, Brussels. He studied zoology at the Roman Catholic University of Louvain, and received

his Ph.D. in 1940, soon after the outbreak of World War II. During the war, he served in the artillery on the Albert Canal and Lys River, in Flanders.

After the war, he participated in several extensive scientific expeditions: a whole year at East Africa's Lake Tanganyika, another year in the South Atlantic, and 15 months on Lakes Kivu, Edward, and Albert in the Belgian Congo (now Zaire). Finally, after surveys of underwater canyons and of the great fisheries of that African country, he was promoted in 1958 to director of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium, a post which he occupied for 20 years. In 1959, he also began teaching oceanography at the Louvain University, where he had studied, and did so until his retirement in 1980.

From 1961 through 1970, Dr. Capart chaired NATO's oceanographic subcommittee. That is how he was able--through his American colleague Daniel P. Moynihan, then counselor to President Nixon and now a U.S. senator--to try to have the frozen neanderthaloid (the so-called Iceman) seized by the federal government--alas, in vain! Over a long period, he continued to participate in an almost innumerable number of scientific expeditions, mainly around the Mediterranean, but also in New Guinea--both Papua and Irian-Jaya--under the leadership of his close friend H.R.M. Leopold III, King of the Belgians.

Outside of his strictly scientific publications, he wrote several popular books on oceanography and the exploration of New Guinea. Later, with the invaluable co-authorship of his wife Denise, an expert archaeologist, he produced outstanding work--unfortunately still poorly diffused--on the origins and periodicity of the great floods and their impact on human history. L'Homme et les Deluges (Man and the Deluges) (Hayez, Brussels, 1986) summarizes the results of life-long research by two specialists in very different fields, which makes its remarkable conclusions the more convincing.



Andre Capart, crossing the Wamena River in West Irian, New Guinea, in March, 1973. (H.R.M. Leopold III.)

In the late 1980's, Dr. Capart's health began to deteriorate. He suffered from a malignant brain tumor, which, after its surgical removal, left him hemiplegic, but did not in the least affect his always inquiring and brilliant mind. A relapse, however, was expected. Near the end of 1990, I was one of his last visitors. During dinner, we cheerfully recalled all and sundry experiences we had shared during half a century, not only in current fieldwork--we often skin-dived together while studying Mediterranean fauna--but also on the much more perilous battlefield of academic science.

In April of 1991, Professor Capart died rather suddenly at the age of 78, mourned by his wife, six children, and a whole host of grandchildren. His favorite proverb came from China, which appropriately enough alludes to all those things which molded his character--his knowledge of ichthyology, his concern over the future of humanity, his open mind, and, above all, his immense kindness and generosity: "If you want to save a starving man for a day, give him a fish. If you want to save him for ever, teach him how to fish."

Bernard Heuvelmans
Paris, France

Note: Because of the Sasquatch panel discussion, there was no room for the Cryptoletters column in this issue.

Society Purpose and Policy: The International Society of Cryptozoology serves as a focal point for the investigation, analysis, publication, and discussion of all matters related to animals of unexpected form or size, or unexpected occurrence in time or space. The Society also serves as a forum for public discussion and education, and for providing reliable information to appropriate authorities. The Society takes no position on which of these supposed animals may actually exist. Opinions may be expressed by individual members, but they are personal ones, and do not reflect any official or unofficial Society policy. Likewise, the Society takes no position concerning the authenticity of any given cryptozoological evidence or events.

Memberships and Subscriptions: Membership and subscription inquiries should be addressed to the ISC Secretariat, P. O. Box 43070, Tucson, Arizona 85733, U.S.A. Membership is US\$30 a year or £18 a year. Payment may be made by personal check if drawn against a U.S. or U.K. bank. Persons donating any additional amounts become Sustaining Members. Membership includes the receipt of *The ISC Newsletter* quarterly and the journal *Cryptozoology* annually. Couples may take out a joint membership for US\$35 or £21 (only one set of publications is sent). Institutions such as corporations, zoological parks and aquariums, and libraries may obtain institutional subscriptions to the Society's publications for US\$45 a year. There are no additional fees for membership or institutional subscriptions outside of the U.S.A. Although payment by non-U.S./U.K. members is preferred in US\$ or £ Sterling (by bank draft drawn against a U.S. or U.K. bank, or international postal money order), individuals in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, and Switzerland may pay by personal cheque in their own currencies provided the equivalent of US\$30 (using the exchange rate current at the time) is sent. Members in other European countries may pay by Eurocheque in £ Sterling provided that £18 is sent. Eurocheques in other currencies cannot be accepted. All payments should be sent to the ISC Secretariat at the above address.

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Field Medical Advisor: Michael J. Manyak, M.D., Department of Urology, George Washington University Medical Center, 2150 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037; Tel.: (202) 994-4002. Members planning fieldwork, particularly in tropical areas, are encouraged to contact Dr. Manyak for medical/health care advice.

Honorary Members: Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); John Green (Canada); The Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (U.K.); Marie-Jeanne Koffmann (U.S.S.R.); Theodore Monod (France); Robert Titmus (Canada).

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